

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 36
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of former
Representative Dederick "Teddy" Withers.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly were deeply saddened to learn of the death of one of its members, former state Representative Dederick "Teddy" Withers; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Representative Withers was born February 5, 1952, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives for five terms, Teddy Withers distinguished himself on Capitol Hill as a man of great wisdom and compassion, earning the universal respect and admiration of his peers; and

WHEREAS, he served the good people of House District 85 with extraordinary ability, diligence, and dedication for ten productive years; and

WHEREAS, a highly regarded and popular member, Representative Withers' stewardship as chairman of the important Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice subcommittee was immensely successful; he also contributed significantly to the legislative process as a valued member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and the House Judiciary Committee; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Withers also served with distinction as Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; and

WHEREAS, a noted photographer, Representative Withers was associated with Street Brothers Motor Company; and

WHEREAS, he contributed his time and considerable abilities as a member of the State and National Boards of Continental Africa Chamber of Commerce and as National Executive Committee President of this worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, Representative Withers received the Southwest Jaycee's Outstanding Statesman Award in 1978, was featured in Ebony Magazine as "One of America's New Outstanding Black Leaders" and was listed as one of America's Future National Leaders by David Broder in his book *"America's Future Leaders"*; and

WHEREAS, after he left the legislature, he continued to work with commitment and purpose to improve the lives of the citizens of Memphis and our state; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to remember the life of this exemplary Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Representative Dederick "Teddy" Withers, reflecting on his many contributions to the public good, and express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.